



**Rachel Carson Reserve  
Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 08, 2012, 10a-12p**

<b>LAC Members</b>	<b>Affiliation/Interest</b>	<b>Present</b>
Mr. Perry Barrow	Community Member	No
Mr. Charles Burgess	Town of Beaufort	Yes
Ms. Ann Carter	Community Member	Yes
Mr. John Fussell	Community Member	Yes
Ms. Margaret Garner	Community Member	Yes
Chief Steve Lewis	Beaufort Police Department	No
Mr. Randy Newman	Fort Macon State Park	No
Ms. Robin Newton	Reserve Volunteer	Yes
Dr. Dan Rittschoff	Duke University Marine Lab	No
Mr. Stanley Rule	Community Member	No
Mr. Ben Wunderly	North Carolina Maritime Museum - Beaufort	Yes
<b>Others in Attendance</b>		
Rebecca Ellin	DCM, Reserve Manager	Yes
Paula Gillikin	DCM, Central Sites Manager	Yes
John Fear	DCM, Research Coordinator	Yes

**Reserve and Local Advisory Committee Introduction – Paula Gillikin**

- For the benefit of new committee members, Paula gave a brief overview of the Reserve program and the purpose and function of the Rachel Carson Local Advisory Committee.

**Reserve Update – Rebecca Ellin**

Staffing News

- Lori Davis was hired as the Education Coordinator effective February 16, 2012. Lori served as the Reserve's Education Specialist for the past ten years through a contract with University of North Carolina Wilmington. In her new role, she manages all K-12 student and teacher and general public programming. Lori has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Methodist College.
- Paula Gillikin was hired as the Central Sites Manager effective February 20, 2012. Paula served as the Reserve's Rachel Carson Site Manager in a temporary capacity since 2007. She will continue to steward the Rachel Carson site in her new role and is also responsible for our Permuda Island Reserve. Paula has a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Environmental Science from the University of North Carolina Wilmington and a Master of Science from Tufts University in Animals and Public Policy.
- Whitney Jenkins was hired as the Coastal Training Program Coordinator effective August 31, 2012. Whitney served as the Reserve's Coastal Training Program Coordinator for the past ten years through a contract with University of North Carolina Wilmington. She will continue her coastal training duties and coordinate communications for the program. Whitney has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Florida and a Masters degree from Duke University in Coastal Environmental Management
- Interviews were conducted for the permanent Northern Sites Manager position in October 2012.

### Budget Update

The Reserve receives funding from both the State of N.C. and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for operation of the program and a budget update was provided for the current and upcoming fiscal years. The Reserve's total budget for FY12-13 is \$911,287 (\$265,000 from State appropriations and \$646,287 from NOAA, 91% of the NOAA funds support operation of the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve); this excludes any external grant funds. The Division is participating in a number of budget exercises to prepare for the upcoming biennium (FYs 13-14 and 14-15) and gubernatorial transition. Federal appropriations for next fiscal year for operation of the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve portion of the program are uncertain at this time; possible scenarios include level-funding and reductions of various amounts.

### Local Advisory Committees

The Reserve program updated the membership of existing and created three new Local Advisory Committees to inform management of the ten Reserve sites. The Local Advisory Committees function as advisory groups, providing feedback and recommendations to staff on site management, research, and education activities, and reviewing policies and implementation strategies. The committees operate per the adopted Operating Procedures document (February 2012); the procedures document, committee membership, and minutes are available on the Reserve's website.

### Program Highlights

See attached document for 2012 Reserve Program Highlights.

### **Rachel Carson Reserve Update and Old Business – Paula Gillikin**

- Education numbers for the year include: 184 people participated in summer public field trips; 132 children in youth summer camps conducted in partnership with the NC Maritime Museum; 1013 participants in K-college field trips and activities; 551 participants in general outreach programs including field trips, festivals, and presentations.
- Paula handed out a summary of recent research projects and locations at the site.

### **Member Roundtable and Other Comments**

- John Fussell asked about the Rachel Carson sentinel site identified in the 2012 Reserve highlights. John Fear provided an update on the components of the Rachel Carson sentinel site.
- Ann Carter asked about the status of the shoreline stabilization structure (made of oyster shell) on the east end of Carrot Island. John Fear provided an update on the techniques used, installation, and status to date.
- The committee discussed the history of dredge spoil activities at the Reserve site.
- Ann Carter inquired about brochures that outline how visitors should use the Reserve site. Paula provided an update on our current brochures and the status of reprinting.
- Ann Carter relayed that people are repeatedly using the Reserve at Fulford St as a restroom. Paula responded that she could install signs at the location to minimize this type of activity.
- The committee expressed interest in seeing a sign installed at the Gordon Street access to inform visitors of the properties ownership and proper visitor use.
- John Fussell attended the annual shorebird meeting and relayed that Rachel Carson was identified as a survey site with potentially 3 surveys in April, May and the fall each. Birds to be surveyed include sanderlings, red knots, ruddy turnstones, and others.
- Paula will be installing dogs on leash signs at strategic locations and as problems arrive.
- Ann commented that the Reserve looks cleaner. She also inquired whether we still have people camping at the site. Paula responded that it does still happen occasionally and she has posted signs at Smoketree Hole. Camping does also happen occasionally at Bird Shoal.
- Margaret asked what kind of regulatory tools we have to enforce rules and Paula provided an overview of what is available.

### **Public Comments**

None

**Meeting follow up**

Paula Gillikin will keep the committee informed of any significant issues that arise at the site. She will also follow up to schedule a March 2013 meeting date.